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SEATTLE
PROTEST

Street demonstrations are the most effective way to protect constitutional rights of freedom of speech and expression, according to one of America's busiest civil liberties activists.

"Political action is needed, not just letter writing and meetings," said Frank Wilkinson, executive director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation for the past 20 years.

"We need to get into the streets to protect our First Amendment rights. The ultimate power of the First Amendment is mass marches of the people... the streets are the most effective expression..."

Wilkinson, prominent in the late '50s and early '60s in the campaign to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, told a Seattle group Monday the FBI is currently one of his main targets.

The FBI, he said, is back in the business of counter-intelligence under new guidelines issued earlier this year by the Department of Justice pursuant to an executive order from President Reagan.

U.S. Attorney General William French Smith released the new rules for conducting "domestic security" investigations on March 7.

The rules allow the FBI to use informants and undercover agents in preliminary inquiries when there is less than "reasonable suspicion of a crime" and a group or person may be investigated on the basis of advocacy of illegal conduct.

"We have to get the FBI out of First Amendment surveillance investigations and back to criminal investigations," said Wilkinson. "We have to get the

CIA out of internal, domestic investigations."